

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-6 and 17 are now present in the application. Claims 7, 8, 10-16 and 20 have been cancelled. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-6 and 17 are allowed. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7, 8 10-14, 17 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matthews, III et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,025,837 (hereinafter "Matthews"), in view of Smith, U.S. Patent No. 5,933,141 (hereinafter "Smith"), and further in view of Kim et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,788,347 (hereinafter "Kim"). Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matthews in view of Smith and Kim, and further in view of Peyer, U.S. Patent No. 6,788,347 (hereinafter "Peyer"), and Garber, U.S. Patent No. 6,560,616 (hereinafter "Garber"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

Without conceding to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the application, claims 7, 8, 10-16 and 20 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Application No. 09/709,554
Amendment dated January 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 3, 2005

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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